

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1687

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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DEA HQS PASS DURKIN/EN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO THAI POLICE FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

REF: STATE 052762

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS - ARE THE THAI SERIOUS?

1. THIS EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING TO SOME DEFINITE CONCLUSION ON "THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RTG ACTUALLY SUPPORTS NARCOTICS EFFORTS", TO USE THE PHRASEOLOGY IN THE REFERENCE, AND THE FACT THAT THERE IS "CLOSE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST" IN WHAT ARE THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. IN THIS REGARD, WE BELIEVE IT PERTINENT TO RECALL THAT WE - AMERICANS AND THAI TOGETHER - HAVE FACED THE CHALLENGE OF COMPLEX AND ENTRENCHED NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING SYSTEMS AND LONG-ESTABLISHED HIGHLAND OPIUM PRODUCING AND MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE LURE OF HANDSOME PROFITS AND LOW RISK IN AN ECONOMY WHERE MOST PEOPLE - OFFICIALS AND CIVILIANS

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ALIKE - ARE VERY POOR.

2. WHEN THE US BEGAN COOPERATION WITH THE THAI IN NARCOTICS MATTERS, THERE WAS NO RTG NARCOTICS EFFORT WORTHY OF THE NAME. THERE WAS NO THAI ORGANIZATION WITH SKILLS AND FACILITIES COMMENSURATE WITH THE STAGGERING DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM.

3. THE PICTURE TODAY IS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT. CAPABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND GOOD MEN HAVE EMERGED, AS OUR REPORTING HAS EMPHASIZED, ON WHICH CAN BE BASED EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS WORK AND WITH WHOM US AND OTHER NARCOTICS AUTHORITIES DO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY. PARTLY THIS IS A RESULT OF US ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH OFFERS OF ADVICE AND MATERIAL AID. BUT IT IS MORE FUNDAMENTALLY A RESULT OF DESIRE OF THE KING AND OF SPECIFIC PERSONALITIES IN TOP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS THAT THAILAND NO LONGER HAVE THE REPUTATION AS A CONDUIT FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS FROM BURMA INTO THE WORLD MARKET.

4. SPECIFICALLY, THIS HAS MEANT THE CREATION OF EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS, THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU, THE NARCOTIC SUPPRESSION CENTER AND THE SPECIAL NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION; AND THE DIRECT ASSOCIATION IN NARCOTICS WORK OF UNQUESTIONABLY HONEST AND ABLE PERSONS LIKE GENERAL PRACHUAB, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TNPD; GENERAL POW SARASIN; AND COLONEL CHAVALIT YODMANEE. AMERICANS WORKING WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS DO - JUSTIFIABLY - FEEL PROUD OF THEIR COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

5. THE MISSION HAS REPORTED THE RESULTS OF THIS COOPERATION. THE OLD, BLATANT TRAFFICKING INTO THAILAND BY LARGE HORSE AND MULE CARAVANS HAS BEEN SET BACK. THE CARAVANS STILL OPERATE IN BURMA BUT THEY TEND TO BREAK UP ON REACHING THE THAI BORDER AND THE OPIUM IS TRANSFERRED TO BEARERS. THERE MAY YET BE A REVIVAL OF THE CARAVAN TRAFFIC AS TRAFFICKERS SEEK TO COUNTER RTG EFFORTS. ON THE SEA, THE TRAWLERS TRAFFICKING BETWEEN BANGKOK AND HONG KONG HAVE BECOME FEWER AND FAR MORE WARY. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THESE EFFORTS, BURMESE OPIUM TRANSITTING THAILAND HAS NOT YET BECOME A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN US CONSUMPTION. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DANGER WAS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE US NARCOTICS EFFORT HERE. THE DANGER STILL EXISTS. THE ESTIMATE FOR THE 1974 BURMA CROP IS IN THE RANGE 360-580 TONS. PRICES FOR RAW OPIUM AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS ARE RISING. PRESSURES WILL MOUNT STEADILY TO GET THIS CROP THROUGH THAILAND AND INTO WORLD MARKETS. TECHNIQUES TO CIRCUMVENT THAI-US SUPPRESSION AND CONTROL EFFORTS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY SKILLED AND SUBTLE. PROFITS FOR THE

SUCCESSFUL NARCOTICS HANDLER WILL MOUNT.

6. RESULTS CAN ALSO BE QUANTIFIED IN TERMS OF MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS DISRUPTED AND OF SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS. WITHIN THE LAST YEAR THAI POLICE EFFORTS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THE IMMOBILIZATION OF THE FOLLOWING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS:

(A) LO HSING-HAN, THE INFAMOUS KKY LEADER AND MAJOR NARCOTIC PRODUCER IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA, WAS ARRESTED JULY 17, 1973 BY TNP. HE IS CURRENTLY BEING TRIED IN RANGOON FOR HIGH TREASON AND ECONOMIC CRIMES.

(B) LU PING-CHIA, A MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER WHO HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SHIPPING DRUGS FROM THAILAND/MALAYSIA/SINGAPORE TO HONG KONG AND OTHER MARKETS, WAS ARRESTED ON A SMUGGLING CHARGE JULY 10, 1973. HE IS AWAITING TRIAL IN BANGKOK.

(C) LAN HU-NAN AND UDOM ASAWAITHIWATANA, TWO OF LU'S ASSOCIATES, WERE ARRESTED WITH HIM AND ARE BEING HELD PENDING TRIAL.

(D) JIMMY YANG, A BURMESE DISSIDENT LEADER AND OPIUM SMUGGLER WITH TIES TO LO HSING-HAN, WAS ARRESTED IN BANGKOK ON JANUARY 7, 1974 IN VIOLATION OF THAI IMMIGRATION LAWS. HE REMAINS IN CUSTODY.

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(E) POONSIRI CHANYASAK, A WELL DOCUMENTED TRAFFICKER WHO HAS SUPPLIED THE US MARKET AND WHO IS CONSIDERED A KING-PIN IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRAFFICKING, WAS ARRESTED ON MARCH 9, 1974 IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEIZURE OF A HEROIN NO. 4 LABORATORY IN BANGKOK. SUN TING-LUNG AND IP CHONG-CHI, A HONG KONG TRAFFICKER AND HEROIN CHEMIST RESPECTIVELY, WERE ARRESTED AT THE LABORATORY.

THAI POLICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OPIATE DRUG SEIZURES FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAR	OPIUM	MORPHINE	HEROIN
1970	285 KG	21 KG	155 KG
1971	1,727	19	61
1972	7,585	517	129
1973	14,775	758	216

SINCE BECOMING OPERATIONAL ON JANUARY 1 OF THIS YEAR, THE METROPOLITAN NARCOTICS UNIT (MNU) HAS ARRESTED TWO PERSONS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSESSING HEROIN FOR EXPORT, ARRESTED 25 SUSPECTS FOR SELLING OR POSSESSING HEROIN FOR SALE, AND APPREHENDED 13 OTHERS FOR HEROIN POSSESSION. AN MNU OFFICIAL HAS REPORTED THAT BANGKOK MUNICIPAL POLICE PRECINCTS, SPURRED BY THE MNUS PROGRESS, HAVE IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR THE ARREST OF 83 HEROIN SUPPLIERS AND 513 HEROIN CONSUMERS. THIS CONTRASTS WITH AN ALMOST DORMANT ENFORCEMENT POSTURE WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL POLICE PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MNU.

SEIZURE OF THE HEROIN LABORATORY ON MARCH 9 ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF BANGKOK SHOWED EXCELLENT COORDINATION AMONG POLICE ELEMENTS AND GOOD USE OF INTELLIGENCE. THIS MAJOR SEIZURE NOT ONLY NETTED ONE OF THAILAND'S MAJOR TRAFFICKERS BUT ALSO SPARKED PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM FOR THAILAND'S ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND WAS APPLAUDED BY THE PRESS.

7. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REVIEW OF GROUND ALREADY FAMILIAR IS TO STRESS OUR CONVICTION THAT "THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RTG ACUALLY SUPPORTS NARCOTICS EFFORTS" CANNOT BE AND

SHOULD NOT BE MEASURED SOLELY BY HOURS FLOWN BY HELICOPTERS OR BY ANY OTHER SINGLE CRITERION. ONE MANIFESTATION OF THIS IS THE CONSIDERABLE RTG EXPENDITURE ON POL (AND THUS A FOREIGN EXCHANGE DRAIN) AND ON MAINTENANCE IN SUPPORT OF AIR OPERATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRICE TAG OF A JUNE 1973 ANTI-CARAVAN OPERATION IN DIRECT OPERATING COSTS (DOC), WHICH INCLUDE ONLY MAINTENANCE AND POL, WAS 626,000 BAHT. A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE FOR DOC OF AVIATION SUPPORT FOR RTG NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1973 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1974 IS 2,400,000 BAHT.

U.S. RESPONSIBILITY - ARE WE SERIOUS?

8. WE HAVE GIVEN OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF WHAT MATERIAL AID CAN HELP TO ACCOMPLISH OUR JOINT GOALS IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION. WE HOPE THAT IN DISCUSSING THE THAI PROGRAM, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS, WITH CONGRESS THE GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS WE HAVE PRESENTED WILL BE EMPHASIZED. WE ADDRESS BELOW SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE REFTEL, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO RE-AFFIRM OUR VIEW THAT IT IS AS MUCH UP TO US TO DEMONSTRATE OUR ACTUAL AND PRACTICAL INTEREST IN SUPPRESSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOLDEN TRIANGLE TRAFFICKING AS IT IS UP TO THE RTG TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ACTUAL SUPPORT. ENHANCED AIR-LIFT CAPABILITY SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO NARCOTICS IS ONE REQUIREMENT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE WARY OF BECOMING LOCKED IN CONCERNING NUMBERS AND TYPES OF AIRCRAFT UNTIL WE HAVE A GO-AHEAD FROM WASHINGTON REGARDING THE BASIC COMMITMENT.

AIRCRAFT FLYING TIME

9. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT USE (PARA 4 REFTEL), THE 35 HOUR PER MONTH FIGURE IS A MINIMUM AND NOT A LIMITING FACTOR IN THE AMOUNT OF AIR SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. IT IS THE AVERAGE FLYING TIME FOR THIS TYPE AIRCRAFT IN TNPD. (RTARF UH-1H ARE MAP PROGRAMMED FOR 32 HOURS PER MONTH AND U.S. ARMY UH-1H IN THILAND ARE AUTHORIZED 36 HOURS PER MONTH.) BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, IF ADDITIONAL FLYING HOURS ARE REQUIRED, THE TPAD WILL MAKE THE HOURS AVAILABLE. THE AIRCRAFT BEST SUITED FOR THE MISSION WILL BE ASSIGNED WHETHER FIXED WING, LOH OR UTILITY HELICOPTER. MISSION NOT AWARE OF RATIONALE FOR 68 HOURS PER MONTH MENTIONED IN REFTEL.

AIRCRAFT CHOICE

10. ON THE PROBLEM OF CHOICE OF AIRCRAFT (PARA 5 REFTEL), RECENT CHANGES IN TACTICS BY NARCOTIC
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11. JUSTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR PROPRIETARY PROCUREMENT IS CONTAINED IN THE PLAN FOR STANDARDIZATION OF AID FINANCED MOTOR VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY, THAILAND NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT. (REFERENCE TOAID A 1603 AND AIDTO A 2575 OF 1967.) THE BELL UTILITY HELICOPTER IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE FOR THIS MISSION ASSIGNMENT. THE TNPd HAS BEEN OPERATING THIS TYPE AIRCRAFT FOR TEN YEARS AND THE AIRCREWS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL ARE TRAINED AND HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO TRAIN OTHERS. SPECIAL TOOLS, SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SHELF. INTRODUCTION OF A NEW TYPE AIRCRAFT WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING OF AIRCREWS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL AS WELL AS A NEW PROCUREMENT SOURCE FOR SPARE PARTS AND MAJOR OVERHAUL OF COMPONENTS. HOURLY OPERATING COSTS, TO BE BORNE BY THE RTG, WOULD ALSO BE HIGHER. ANY GAINS DERIVED FROM THE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY OF THE S58-T WOULD BE OFFSET BY THE ABOVE FACTORS. ALMOST ANY REACTION FORCE SHOULD BE OF AT LEAST SQUAD SIZE (8-11 MEN). THE LOH CAN TRANSPORT ONLY THREE PERSONS. TO TRANSPORT A SQUAD REQUIRES ONE UTILITY HELICOPTER. THE TNPd HAS SUFFICIENT LOHS TO MEET ANY KNOWN REQUIREMENT.
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12. THE ASSUMPTION IN PARA 6A REFTel IS CORRECT. TEXT WILL BE AMENDED.

DEPLOYMENT

13. ASSIGNMENT TO NORTH THAILAND OF TWO NEW BELL 205A IS NOT CONTINGENT UPON ARRIVAL OF THE ADDITIONAL FIVE (PARA 6B REFTEL). AS SOON AS THE TWO AIRCRAFT ARRIVE, ARE ASSEMBLED AND RELEASED FOR OPERATION THEY WILL BE DEPLOYED TO THE NORTH. DEPLOYMENT PLANS ARE ALREADY FORMULATED AND CREWS TRAINED. TWO OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT ARE NOW STATIONED IN THE NORTH AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTELLIGENCE AND RECON. THEY INCLUDE ONE STOL (PORTER) AND ONE LOH.

STEPPED UP RTG SUPPORT

14. REGARDING STEPPED-UP RTG SUPPORT (PARA 6C REFTEL), PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCIAL POLICE AND NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER PERSONNEL HAVE FOCUSED ON FORMING IN POLICE REGION V ON A PILOT BASIS 3-5 MEN NARCOTICS TEAMS IN 12 KEY DISTRICTS AND ADDITIONAL TEAMS IN 3 PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AND AT REGION V HEADQUARTERS. TEAM SITES WILL BE DECIDED WITH REFERENCE TO THE LOCATION OF TRANSPORTATION ROUTES (LAND, AIR, AND WATER), BORDER CROSSINGS, AND POPULATION CENTERS.

15. ALSO DISCUSSED WITH MECHANISMS TO INSURE COORDINATION WITH DEA, SNO, THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER AND THE BPP. THESE NARCOTICS TEAMS SHOULD DEVOTE FULL TIME TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT EXISTING SNO AND BPP OPERATIONS. TEAMS SHOULD BE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED AND OPERATING, DEDICATING CONSIDERABLE PP ASSETS, BY THE TIME THE FIVE HELICOPTERS ARRIVE IN THAILAND. THE MISSION PROPOSES TO FURNISH VEHICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT WHILE THE TNPD FURNISHES ALL OTHER SUPPORT.

16. TWO NEW SNO STATIONS WILL BE OPENED IN THE NORTH BEFORE THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR.

17. THE BORDER PATROL POLICE HAVE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE BPP TO&E AN EIGHT MAN TEAM FOR EACH BPP COMPANY. THERE WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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55 TEAMS ESTABLISHED BY THE END OF FY 75. THESE TEAMS, WHICH EQUIPPED, WILL DEVOTE FULL TIME TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. THE BPP HAVE IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR M-16 RIFLES FOR THESE TEAMS AND OTHER BPP PERSONNEL OPERATING AGAINST CARAVANS OR LARGE NUMBERS OF OPIUM BEARERS CROSSING THAILAND'S BORDER.

SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT

18. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT USG PROVIDED HELICOPTERS WILL SUPPORT ALL NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION/DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (PARA 6D REFTEL) INCLUDING USG, UNFDAC AND USG ASSISTED RTG

INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS AS A PRIORITY 4 USAGE. THIS COULD
INCLUDE COMMODITY AND PERSONNEL AIRLIFT, MARKETING AS
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